



Number Three

# Charles Street Byway Management Plan

Protecting and Promoting the Unique Qualities of the Charles Street Corridor

## Byway Planning Workshop Summary

A Byway planning workshop was held on April 18, 2005 to reach out to our neighbors, colleagues, and others with an interest in Charles Street. The goal of the meeting was to gather citizen input and let everyone know where we are heading with the Byway planning effort. The workshop also served as a great opportunity for those who are interested in Charles Street to help set the direction of the plan.

Participants at the workshop reviewed and evaluated an initial list of Byway management ideas developed by the Advisory Committee to let us know which ideas were of the greatest importance and which ideas were of a lower priority.

After compiling the list of ideas and sorting the list by priority, some common ideas emerged that will help us focus the Charles Street Byway Management Plan. These ideas fall into three basic categories:

- Physical improvements and enhancements
- Preservation/conservation actions and activities
- Management activities



## Physical Improvements and Enhancements

One of the most commonly expressed concerns was the need to make improvements along Charles Street that facilitates access to transit, improves traffic conditions, and creates a more appealing streetscape. Widely supported ideas include:

- Improving access to mass transit and promoting clean, user-friendly public transit that appeals to residents, tourists, shoppers and workers
- Improving the traffic flow while minimizing impact on neighborhoods
- Improving safety of left-turn movements
- Slowing speed through the corridor
- Making the corridor more pedestrian-friendly, including widening sidewalks, adding buffers between cars and pedestrians and other physical improvements to the right-of-way
- Identifying potential interpretive sites and opportunities
- Extending the existing pedestrian wayfinding system to the north and south of downtown, Mount Vernon and the Inner Harbor
- Planting more trees, improving the environment for growing trees, and doing a better job of maintaining existing trees along Charles Street
- Extending streetscape improvements throughout the corridor and increasing the number of historic street lighting fixtures
- Making it easier for visitors to find their way to South Baltimore in a manner that will not increase commuter traffic

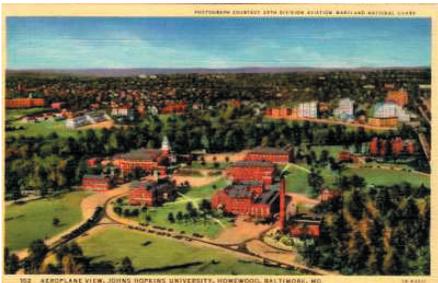
Workshop participants also made it clear that they did not want to make any changes that would increase automobile, bus and tour bus traffic through the corridor. Concerns arose regarding the proposed Inner Harbor – University Parkway trolley system, as well as the establishment of a northern gateway at I-695 and the reallocation of pavement to provide more space for pedestrians and bicyclists.



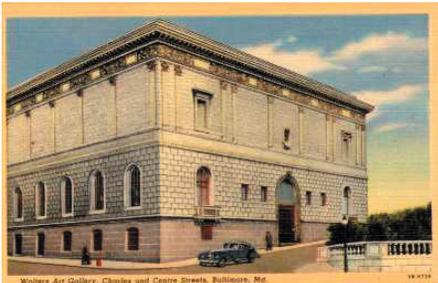
## Preservation/Conservation Actions

Workshop participants widely supported the goal of preserving the special qualities of Charles Street that establish it as one of the Baltimore Region’s premier streets, including its many unique and special historic sites as well as the landscape fabric of its great and varied urban, institutional and suburban neighborhoods. The highest priorities fell into three general areas:

- Development of guidelines to guide future changes along the Charles Street corridor
- Education of homeowners and property owners about the historical significance of the Charles Street corridor for the purpose of protecting and promoting sound improvements and/or restorations
- Enhancement of the overall appearance of the corridor including a consideration to return to Olmstedian design principles.



Workshop participants expressed concerns about misapplying Olmsted’s principles, especially in the boulevard section of Charles Street where Olmsted’s recommendations were never originally followed. Further work will determine the best way to acknowledge the original Olmsted plan in our planning for Charles Street.



## Management Actions

Workshop participants recognized the need for better coordination among all stakeholders to influence the use and future appearance of Charles Street. The highest priorities are:

- Developing a Byway-specific brochure for touring the Byway via bus, transit, bicycle and foot
- Cleaning up and improving the trash removal along the street and corridor
- Working with existing neighborhood and other local organizations



Concerns arose regarding the establishment of a system of visitor centers and kiosks along Charles Street, particularly at the northern gateway area in Lutherville where more outreach will be needed to discuss the concept with residents so they might understand how the Byway can improve the quality of their community.

Additional historic sites and interpretive opportunities were also identified, including some corrections that will be made to the inventory map. This map, which will be made part of an existing conditions report, will document existing conditions along the corridor. This report will document what we have learned about Charles Street so far.



## Next Steps

Over the next several months, we will look at the range of ideas presented in greater detail, refine the strategies to address concerns and determine who will be responsible for implementing the management strategies. The next four Advisory Committee meetings will be used to accomplish these goals. A second public workshop is scheduled for the fall 2005. Thank you to all those that participated in the workshop. We look forward to your continued involvement!

For more information: Please call, write, or email Jim Hall, the Project Manager for the City at:  
 Baltimore City Department of Planning • 417 E. Fayette Street, 8th Floor • Baltimore, MD 21202  
 Telephone: 410-396-8350  
 E-mail: JamesD.Hall@baltimorecity.gov